

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Maritime Meteorology Observatory of
Constanta

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1. The Maritime Observatory of Meteorology at Constanta, Rumania was established in 1935 under the title of Meteorological Service /Serviciul Meteorologic/ and was located on Domnitsa Elena Street 28. It remained under this name until the end of 1947, when it was changed to its present title. During World War II it came under the cognizance of Air and Navy. At that time guards supplemented the organization, and all personnel were required to remain at their previous assignments.

Mission

2. The mission of the Maritime Observatory is, basically, to collate and disseminate weather information for the Armed Forces. The Constanta station has never participated actively in military work, eg, utilization of the observatory for transmission of military radio messages.

Location

3. After the war, Domnitsa Elena Street was changed to Friedrich Engels Street. At the present time the observatory is located on the corner of Friedrich Engels Street and Decebal Street.

Description

4. The observatory is housed in a two story building of brick construction covered with white stucco. The dimensions of the building are 10 x 14 m; 10 m bordering Friedrich Engels Street and 14 m bordering on Decebal Street. The roof of the building was tile, appeared weather beaten and was of pyramid design. There are two outside entrances leading to the second floor. The building suffered bomb damage during World War II yet it was never vacated. Immediately after the war steps were taken to repair the building; however, the walls still showed signs of damage in November 1950.

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5. The main entrance to the observatory is on Friedrich Engels Street. Above the entrance there is a large sign painted in blue letters on a white background, "Ministerul Aerului si Marinei Observatorul Meteorologic Constanta". When facing the entrance, there is another sign on the left corner of the building which has red letters on white background. The letters are "HQ".

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"Q" does not exist in the Rumanian alphabet, so the letters are puzzling

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Sections

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6. The observatory is headed by Professor Virgil Mosoiu, who has been at this observatory for 12 years. He is responsible for the weather prognosis and administrative work pertaining to the observatory. The observatory is divided into three sections:

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- (a) Forecasting section
- (b) Observers Section
- (c) Radio Section

Forecasting Section

7. The forecasting section is headed by Professor (fnu) Mosoiu and his assistant, Professor (fnu) Christache. Both professors have the same duties, except that Professor Mosoiu also handles administrative work pertaining to the observatory. The duties of this section are the preparation of the Russian weather prognosis, entering barometric tendencies on weather charts, preparing curves on the overall European chart pertaining to temperatures, wind velocities and precipitation. These are entered on the charts for the previous day and the second day following.
8. The Russian prognosis is received from Moscow every three hours. Upon receipt of the weather message, one of the professors decodes the message and converts it into Rumanian units. The messages are not sent in International Weather Code, but in the Russian Weather Code. The duty hours are long, and the professors rotate shifts, with 24 hours on duty and 24 hours off.
9. The administrative duties of Professor Mosoiu consist of administrative letters to Bucharest, reports, weather summaries and arrangements of monthly pay.

Observer Section

10. This section consists of two supervisors and five observers. There must be one supervisor and two observers on duty at the observatory on a 24 hour basis. The duties of this section consist of the preparation of meteorological data for transmission by radio. This report consists of data from the Constanta region and is prepared for transmission in the Russian Weather Code at 0800, 1100, 1400, 1700, 2000, 2300, 0200 and 0500. The data concerns temperatures, barometric pressures and tendencies, wind velocities and direction. Barometric pressures are obtained in millibars and converted to millimeters; wind velocities in meters/seconds; direction of wind on ground and at various altitudes; formation and variation and height of clouds; sea conditions on one to nine scale, and weather tendencies. One of the observers encodes the data, while the other receives it by telephone from regional stations. When this process is completed, the data is checked by the duty supervisor and then delivered to the radio section.

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11. The observer section receives data every three hours from the following 10 Constanta regional stations:

Malgalia - by telephone
Constanta Airport - by telephone
Sulina - by radio
St. Gheorghe - by telephone to Sulina
Tulcea - by telephone to Sulina
Midgidia - by telephone
Cernavoda - by telephone
Calnavoda - by telephone
Navodari - by telephone
Midia - by telephone

Radio Section

12. There were four radio operators in this section. Two operators are on duty for each 24 hour period. Working hours began at 0800 and continued until 0800 the following morning. Since the operators transmitted only five to ten minutes every three hours, most of their time was occupied in receiving weather data from other stations.

13. The radio equipment in the observatory included the following:

(a) Receivers
Two Telefunken-Aviane 500-12000 kilocycles. These are old aircraft sets, badly in need of replacement.
One standard receiver
One Leonard 1950 model receiver

(b) Transmitters
One standard 300 watt output transmitter. This was old and worn out.

Both the receiver and transmitter failures occurred two or three times daily. The insulation was of poor quality, and most of the failures were due to condensers. The electric power supply came from the Constanta city power house. Power failure on the lines running from the power house to the observatory occurred once monthly during the summer, and two to three times weekly during the winter because of winds. It required three to four hours to effect repairs.

14. A 220 volt generator driven by a gas engine of German manufacture was located in the observatory for standby service when the city power supply failed. This emergency set was decrepit and sometimes required hours to start. In of service at the observatory, they had been unable to obtain a new spark plug for this engine.

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Political Unit

15. Cojocaru (fnu) is the political representative of the observatory. 50X1
 [redacted] his duties consist of directing personnel along the "party line" and in conducting political lectures. He was known to maintain personal books on each individual. In these books he kept a record of the political tendencies of observatory personnel, and entered necessary demerits against their names. He was visited two or three times weekly by personnel who were not connected with the observatory.

Visitors

16. Twice in two years, Russian officers came to the observatory under the guise of a formal visit. They talked to Professor Mosoiu and Professor Christache, discussing weather forecasts and examining curves on the weather charts. The visiting group usually consisted of one or two officers and civilians, a total of three or four persons.

Books and Technical Literature

17. There was a small bookcase in the administrative section which contained about 20 books. These related to scientific, technical and meteorological subjects; most of them are printed in the French and English language. Professor Mosoiu frequently referred to them in determining prognosis of unusual conditions. His assistant, Christache, never was known to have used them. 50X1
 [redacted] one English book published in London which concerned forecasting weather on the Black Sea. There was also a small library corner located in the forecasting section; however, all of the books there were political, ie, Marx and Lenin. There were no technical books or literature in this library.
18. On the wall of the forecasting section was a chart of the USSR (European USSR) showing all the USSR weather stations, not by towns but by trimones. This chart was not classified, and copy was used for the daily prognosis. Each chart was numbered and if a mistake was made in the prognosis, the responsible professor was required to make a written report explaining the error. There were no classified weather charts in the observatory. Spare charts were stored below a bookcase in the forecasting section. 50X1
19. In the observer section was an old book on cloud formations. 50X1
 [redacted] this book was published in 1936. There was also a pamphlet on the operational procedure of balloon soundings. This pamphlet explained how to determine wind velocities in meter/second and direction up to 12000 m in 100 m intervals.
20. The radio section had booklets which came with the Leonard transmitter and receiver. These were in English. There were also some leaflets in a binding classified Secret. These were regulations governing radio operators and stated what a radio operator could and could not send; all information transmitted had to be in code, radio chatter was not allowed, etc. These regulations were signed by Vaseli Mangiu, political director and assistant head of the Rumanian Meteorological Institute, Bucharest. (Mangiu is a former radio operator.)

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